19th May 1954]

* 935 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction has issued orders to increase the ratio of pupils to a teacher from 35 to 60; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is with reference to the Parulekar Committee's report. In view of the decision of the Government with regard to that report which I have announced yesterday on the floor of the House, this question will not arise, Sir."

Damages due to the attack of pest and diseases on the paddy crops in Gingee taluk.

* 936 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the extent of damages caused by the attack of pest and diseases on the paddy crops in Gingee taluk during the period from July to December 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About 17 per cent of the paddy crop or about 1,950 acres were affected by pests and diseases in the Gingee taluk during the period from July to December 1953."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, it is not 1,950 odd acres, but about 20,000 acres of paddy crop that has been affected. It seems that the Government have not given so far any remission for them. There was also failure on the part of the Agriculture Department to supply the necessary insecticides. May I know what steps the Government have taken regarding the default of the Agriculture Department? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not admit there was any default as such. When the stock of insecticides was exhausted, it was immediately replenished. Whatever be the extent of crops that were affected by pests, the damage is assessed only at 17 per cent."

Imprisonment for default in the payment of sales tax.

* 937 *Q.*—SRI K. T. RAJU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of merchants imprisoned for default in the payment of sales tax;

(*b*) how many of them are women; and

(*c*) how many are really unable to pay sales tax?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The hon. Member has not specified the year in respect of which he wants the information. The figures for the year 1953 are as follows :—

(*a*) Forty-three.

(*b*) Two.

(*c*) Forty."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" இவர்கள் அன்றைய தினம் வரி செலுத்த முடியாமல் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமையில் இருந்தார்கள் என்பதை மந்திரி அவர்கள் உணர்வாரா ?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" In such cases, there will be two sets of people; one set who cannot afford and do not pay and another set who can afford, but still do not pay."

Gazetted officers whose services have been lent to the Madras Corporation.

* 938 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Gazetted officers whose services have been lent to the Madras City Corporation; and

(*b*) if so, on what conditions?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) One, Sir.

(*b*) The officer has been appointed as Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, for a period of three years on a pay of Rs. 1,200 per mensem with an annual increment of Rs. 50 plus dearness allowance at the usual rate. His pay and allowance as well as contribution towards his leave salary and pension will be met from the funds of the Corporation."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" When this officer has been loaned for a period of three years, if his service expired within three years, may I know what arrangements the Government will make in such a contingency? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" It has been already settled by the Government."

Increase of bus fare by half a pie per mile.

* 939 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have given permission to the bus owners of this State to increase the bus fare by half a pie per mile; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?